

Date: Sat, 9 Oct 93 04:08:03 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1199
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sat, 9 Oct 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1199

Today's Topics:

 !!!Ham Questions for English!!!
 ANS-261 BULLETINS
 forwarded msg MOTOROLA
 HTs Airlines and Morris
 idea for ground radials
 Mawrisse
 Motorola ad in QST
rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)
 SB QST ARL ARLB101
 Temporary IDs
 When is Dayton??

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Fri, 8 Oct 1993 21:04:46 GMT
From: swrinde!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!
caen!usenet.cis.ufl.edu!usenet.ufl.edu!mailer.cc.fsu.edu!freenet.scri.fsu.edu!
twright@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: !!!Ham Questions for English!!!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

gumaer@merlin.etsu.edu (Mark W. Gumaer) writes:

> Hi all,
>
> My girlfriend is trying to get a research paper on ham radio. If
> you could e-Mail her at butler@merlin.etsu.edu or myself, we would

> really appreciate it. The question are:
>
> What do you think about the no-code tech?
> Why are people interested in Dxing?
> What is better for dxing: code or voice? Why?
> What is good about VHF AND UHF? how does repeaters work
> and why are they used?
> What is the difference between HF & U/VHF?
>
> I have answered her questions but she needs more people to
> interview. If you could mail your responses before Next
> Tuesday (12th) We would greatly appreciate it.
>
> 73, Mark
> '
>
>
>
>
>
>
> --
> -----
> Mark Gumaer (KA5YUV) | Vice-President-Elect Radio East Texas State University
> gumaer@merlin.etsu.edu | Editor Radio E.T.S.U. Newsletter
> | Phone (903) 886-2084 (on weekdays)
> | (903) 356-2253 (on weekends)
> | FAX (903) 886-2084
Ham Radio 146.78 or 147.02 Mhz
> AKA: Don Begal in Duelmasters, Jurine DM61
> Goomar in Adventures Guild, Antar
> -----
I would like to read it when it is completed

Tim Wright KD40VM

--

Date: 9 Oct 93 04:48:52 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ANS-261 BULLETINS
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

R:931009/0753Z @:FE6CNB.#SETX.TX.USA.NA [SugarLand] #:51662 Z:77478
R:931006/2318z @:K5WPH.NM.USA.NA #:4441
R:931006/2231Z @:W5ES.#WTX.TX.USA #:57101
R:931003/1852Z @:KC7CG.AZ.USA.NA #:15109

R:931003/1844Z @:W7JHX.AZ.USA.NA [Tucson] #:6901 Z:85710 FBB5.15
R:931003/1926Z @:N0IFE.NCMO.MO.USA.NA [Moberly, Mo] #:41389 Z:65270 FBB5.15
R:931003/0753 16279@W0ZLN.#CEMO.MO.USA.NA.
R:931003/0543z 40219@K0PFX.#STL.MO.USA.NA
R:930928/1304Z @:N9HSI.#HUB.IL.USA.NA [DATAHUB\ILHUB] FBB5.14b ILHUB#:28929
R:930928/2018Z @:KA9YLV.#NWIN.IN.USA.NA Dyer #:4233 Z:46311
R:930928/1734Z @:KA9WMW.IN.USA.NA [Knox,IN] #:12729 Z:46534 9309192120.A FBB5.1
R:930928/1512Z @:WR9K.IN.USA.NA [SOUTH BEND,IN] #:35059 Z:46552 FBB5.15
R:930926/0534z @:WA8URE.#SWMI.MI.USA.NA Grand Rapids #:33470 Z:49508

SB SAT @ AMSAT \$ANS-261.01
STS-58 SAREX MISSION INFO

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 261.01 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD SEPTEMBER 18, 1993
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: \$ANS-261.01

KA3HDO Provides STS-58 SAREX Mission Information

The STS-58 flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia represents the next mission carrying the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX). STS-58 is currently scheduled for launch on 14-OCT-93 at 14:53 UTC. Spacelab Life Sciences-2 is the primary payloadde voice and packet. Discussions between the astronauts and the SAREX working group indicates that there will be more general contact operations on this flight than was performed on each of the three SAREX flight flown this year. Please remember that this is a preflight prediction. The astronauts and the SAREX working group cannot guarantee this prediction. The following information gives more details on SAREX operations for STS-58.

STS-58 Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX)
Information Sheet

Mission: STS-58 Space Shuttle Columbia
Spacelab Life Sciences-2 (SLS-2) Mission

Launch: October 14, 1993, 14:53 UTC

Orbit: 39 degrees orbital inclination

Mission Length: 13 days (Nominal)

Amateur
Radio

Operators: Bill McArthur (KC5ACR), Marty Fettman (KC5AXA),

Rick Searfoss, Callsign TBD

Modes: FM Voice
Prime callsign KC5ACR

Packet Radio
Callsign W5RRR-1

Frequencies: All operations in split mode. Do not transmit on
the downlink frequency.

Voice Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz (Worldwide)
Uplinks: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, 144.99 MHz
(Except Europe)
144.70, 144.75, 144.80 MHz (Europe only)

Note: the crew will not favor any specific uplink
frequency, so your ability to work the crew will
be the "luck of the draw."

Packet Freqs: Downlink: 145.55 MHz
Uplink: 144.49 MHz

Info: Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN, Greenbelt Maryland,
SAREX Bulletins and Shuttle Retransmissions
3.860 MHz, 7.185 MHz, 14.295 MHz, 21.395 MHz, 28.650 MHz
and 147.450 MHz (FM)

Johnson Space Center ARC, W5RRR, Houston, Texas
SAREX Bulletins 7.225 MHz, 14.280 MHz, 21.395 MHz,
28.650 MHz, (SSB) and 146.64 MHz (FM)

ARRL Amateur Radio Station, W1AW, Newington, CT
SAREX News Bulletins
3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, and 28.590 MHz
and 147.555 MHz (FM)

Also, bulletins available on internet, via AMSAT ANS,
Compuserve, and your local PBSS.

School Group Participation: 18 school groups will participate
in SAREX with pre-scheduled direct
and telebridge contacts. These include
17 in the U.S., and one France.

Prelaunch Keplerian Elements:

The following Keplerian Elements are provided by Gil Carman (WA5NOM)
at the Johnson Space Center ARC:

STS-58

```
1 00058U          93287.67747791 .00119475 00000-0 26040-3 0    50
2 00058 39.0114 124.6663 0007676 272.4217 87.5676 15.96123499    22
```

Satellite: STS-58

Catalog number: 00058

Epoch time: 93287.67747791 = (14-OCT-93 16:15:34.09 UTC)

Element set: 005

Inclination: 39.0114 deg

RA of node: 124.6663 deg

Space Shuttle Flight STS-58

Eccentricity: .0007676

Prelaunch Element set JSC-005

Arg of perigee: 272.4217 deg

Launch: 14-OCT-93 14:53 UTC

Mean anomaly: 87.5676 deg

Mean motion: 15.96123499 rev/day

Gil Carman, WA5NOM

Decay rate: 1.19475e-03 rev/day*2

NASA Johnson Space Center

Epoch rev: 2

Checksum: 329

[The AMSAT News Service (ANS) would like to thank Frank Bauer (KA3HDO) for
this bulletin item.]

Date: Fri, 08 Oct 93 16:10:54 GMT
From: netcon!bongo!skyld!jangus@locus.ucla.edu
Subject: forwarded msg MOTOROLA
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Oct7.160810.20255@mnemosyne.cs.du.edu> jmaynard@nyx.cs.du.edu
writes:

>

> (paramedic hat on)

[An typically deranged rave against Motorola radios deleted]

Well no wonder you couldn't get the radios to work, you had the wrong hat
on. Go back and put on your radio hat.

Could they get your business back if they used Morse rather than FM?

Amateur: WA6FWI@WA6FWI.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA | "It is difficult to imagine our
Internet: jangus@skyld.tele.com | universe run by a single omni-
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749 | potent god. I see it more as a
Phone: 1 (310) 324-6080 | badly run corporation."

Date: Sat, 9 Oct 1993 06:43:06 GMT
From: news.Hawaii.Edu!uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu!jherman@ames.arpa
Subject: HTs Airlines and Morris
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <750016170snx@skyld.tele.com> jangus@skyld.tele.com (Jeffrey D. Angus) writes:

>
>In article <1993Oct4.142552.23058@cyphyn.radnet.com> randy@cyphyn.radnet.com >
(Randy) writes:
>> Using a transmitter....even many receivers (the local oscillator, is why)
>> inside an aeroplane, you are right next to the antenna system...the body of
>> the craft is part of the system.
>>
>> Someone sending, or even receiving, will screw up the navigation gear,
>> (which relies heavily on radio), plus the collision avoidance systems.
>
>
>
>When an aircraft heads west out of Los Angeles International, it heads right
>over Mt. Wilson.
>
>Several hundred kilowatts of RF spread from DC to Daylight(tm).
>
>Interesting to note that Mt. Wilson is not pockmarked with the craters of
>several thousand airplanes.
>

Um Jeff, Mount Wilson is east of LA airport, not west. The prevailing wind in SoCal is from the ocean, so planes take off and land heading west, towards the ocean. Planes don't go anywhere near Mount Wilson on their approach to LAX - their altitude is too low.

Jeff NH6IL (back when airplanes were called 'lighter than air machines': WA6QIJ)

Date: 8 Oct 1993 18:05:06 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!
icon.rose.hp.com!hpchase.rose.hp.com!cmoore@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: idea for ground radials
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Scott Ginsburg (ginsburg@wellfleet.COM) wrote:

: Has anyone tried the following idea ...
: The cable after being chopped up would look something like:

: ----- 34'
: ----- 23'
: ----- 16'
: ----- 11'
: ----- 8'

Your diagram reminds me of ribbon cable...I wonder if you could do something like this with ribbon cable? You could easilly cut off individual conductors. What are the wire guage requirements for ground radials? Ribbon cable is usually a pretty small guage.

Chris Moore
N6IYS
cmoore@mothra.rose.hp.com

Date: Fri, 08 Oct 93 16:18:28 GMT
From: netcon!bongo!skyld!jangus@locus.ucla.edu
Subject: Mawrisse
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <292pshINNakl@emx.cc.utexas.edu> oo7@emx.cc.utexas.edu writes:

>
> robert@amanda.jpunix.com (robert somebody) says:
>
> >>cowan@rubicon.org (Darin Cowan) writes:
>
> >> It really looks silly, however, when people on both sides of the debate
> >>(a debat which has centred around the intellectual capacity of code and
> >> no-code types) CANNOT EVEN SPELL THE NAME OF THE ISSUE AT HAND! That
> >>reflects poorly on all hams, whether they have code or not.

How about while you are teaching us how to spell 'morse' you take a look in the book for 'debate' and 'centered'. And before you put the dictionary away, you may wish to smack the CAPSLOCK key a few times. It appears to be stuck.

"I didn't used to be able to spell ASS HOLE. Now I are one!"

Amateur: WA6FWI@WA6FWI.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA | "It is difficult to imagine our
Internet: jangus@skyld.tele.com | universe run by a single omni-
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749 | potent god. I see it more as a
Phone: 1 (310) 324-6080 | badly run corporation."

Date: Fri, 08 Oct 93 16:04:37 GMT
From: netcon!bongo!skyld!jangus@locus.ucla.edu
Subject: Motorola ad in QST
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Oct7.153731.6261@hemlock.cray.com> dadams@cray.com writes:

> So does this prohibit a third party company from writting and distributing
> (for profit) their own alternative rom chips?

Does this imply that Ron Raikes has been violating Copyright laws all these
years by distributing Net/Rom EPROMs for TNC-2 clones and the AEA PK-87/88s?

What about the HostMode firmware he wrote to replace the EPROMS in the above?

Just a thought....

Amateur: WA6FWI@WA6FWI.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA | "It is difficult to imagine our
Internet: jangus@skyld.tele.com | universe run by a single omni-
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749 | potent god. I see it more as a
Phone: 1 (310) 324-6080 | badly run corporation."

Date: 7 Oct 93 09:43:04 GMT
From: news.service.uci.edu!paris.ics.uci.edu!csulb.edu!library.ucla.edu!agate!
spool.mu.edu!sgiblab!daver!dlb!amdahl!amdahl!uts.amdahl.com@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/faq/part1

Revision: 3.12 09/07/93 15:35:03

Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions
Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

This is a regular posting of frequently-asked questions (FAQ) about Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio. It is intended to summarize some common questions on the rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list as well as to help beginners get started.

Please provide a copy of the FAQ to any new or soon-to-be Hams you know.

Regular FAQ postings can help save network bandwidth and maintain a good signal-to-noise ratio in the newsgroup. However, they can't do it alone - you, the reader, have to use them. If you are a new user, please print and review the FAQ articles and look at the instructions in the news.announce.newusers newsgroup before posting any articles. If you are an experienced user, please help by refraining from answering frequently-asked questions on the newsgroup if they are already answered by the FAQ articles. Instead, send e-mail to the user who asked the question. (It will be helpful if you include the part of the FAQ that answers their question, but not the whole thing.)

The FAQ cannot always prevent people from posting repetitive questions. But even if hundreds of questions get posted, it saves you from having to answer them hundreds of times. Also, a friendly pointer to the FAQ in your first answer can help that person refer to the FAQ in the future. That is when we can begin to get a real savings of network bandwidth.

To reduce the size of each article, the FAQ information is posted in 3 parts:
Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio
Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources
Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

Table of Contents

Dates indicate last modification.

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

- ** Table of Contents (6/93)
- ** Introduction to the FAQ (11/92)
 - * How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles (6/93)
 - * Acknowledgements (6/93)
 - * Notes on "Netiquette" (1/93)
- ** What is Amateur Radio? (11/92)
- ** Who can become a ham? (6/93)
- ** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio? (9/93)

- ** How much does it cost? (9/92)
- ** Where can I take the tests? (9/93)
- ** What are the tests like? (6/93)
- ** What can I do with a ham radio license? (5/92)
- ** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license? (pre-4/92)
- ** I'm interested, who will help me? (11/92)
- ** Should I build my own equipment or antenna? (11/92)

Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources

- ** Where can I find Ham Radio information with a computer? (11/92)
 - * The rec.radio.* newsgroups (6/93)
 - * The ARRL e-mail server (1/93)
 - * The KA6ETB e-mail "HAM-server" (new 9/93)
 - * The Internet File Transfer Protocol (FTP) (9/93)
 - * Access to FTP archives via electronic mail (1/93)
 - * The Ham-Radio mail list: rec.radio.amateur.misc by mail (9/93)
 - * Telephone BBS's with Ham-related information (9/93)
 - * Callsign servers and geographical name servers (11/92)
 - * FTP access to FCC Part 97 and FCC Amateur Radio question pools (9/93)
 - * Lists of radio modifications and extensions (11/92)
- ** Can I send ARRL or W5YI electronic mail? (11/92)
- ** "Why doesn't the ARRL do...?" (11/92)
- ** What magazines are available for Ham Radio? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I use the incoming and outgoing QSL bureau? (11/92)
- ** Are there any news groups for CAP? (11/92)
- ** What's the name of the QRP club that issues QRP numbers? (9/93)
- ** How do I become a 10-10 member? (9/93)
- ** How do I join MARS? (9/93)
- ** How do I join RACES? (pre-4/92)
- ** What organizations are available to help handicapped hams? (pre-4/92)
- ** I am looking for a specific ham, can anyone help me find him? (6/93)
- ** Can I post my neat new ham related program on rec.radio.amateur.misc? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I get ham radio software for my computer? (9/93)
- ** Are there Dialup News services or BBSs for Amateur Radio? (4/92)
- ** Where can I find VE sessions in my local area? (9/93)
- ** Why isn't XXX available electronically? (4/92)

Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

- ** What are the different US amateur classes and what can each of them do? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is the best way to learn Morse Code? (10/92)
- ** What is the standard for measuring Morse code speed? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is the standard phonetic alphabet? (new 9/93)
- ** I'm confused. What do all those abbreviations mean??? (6/93)
- ** What do all those "tones" mean? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I learn more about Amateur Radio if I live outside the US? (9/93)

- ** How can I get a "reciprocal license" if I am a licensed ham from another country or if I am a FCC licensed ham who wants to operate in another country (on vacation)? (9/93)
- ** My apartment or housing complex does not allow outdoor antennas, now what do I do? (9/93)
- ** I got TVI...HELP!!! (9/93)
- ** Did you know that you can get college credit for being a ham? (pre-4/92)
- ** On what frequencies do JPL and GSFC retransmit the shuttle audio? (10/92)
- ** Can I take my HT on an airplane and operate it if I get the permission of the captain? (4/92)
- ** How do I modify my current Amateur license? (9/93)
- ** I'm confused about XXX, should I ask the FCC? (9/93)
- ** Is there any information on antique radios? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I buy vacuum tubes? (9/93)
- ** What do I need to get started in packet radio? (9/93)
- ** What do I need to get started in satellite communications? (9/93)
- ** What is available to get started in ATV, SSTV and WEFAX? (9/93)
- ** What are these contests I sometimes hear, and how do I participate? (9/93)

--Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently-asked Questions-----Part 1--

** Introduction to the FAQ

* How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles

We accept suggestions from the Amateur Radio community. Please consider that all new contributions need to be SHORT and concise in order to be included. If a contribution is too long, the FAQ editors can help you find a more appropriate FTP archive or mail server for your article.

We always accept corrections. Please allow some time (often not the next issue of the FAQ) because the FAQ maintainers do this as volunteers so each must give higher priority to their employers.

Send correspondence to hamradio-faq@amdahl.com so that it will reach all the FAQ coordinators: (listed in alphabetical order)

Ed Hare	KA1CV	ehare@arrl.org	(Newington, CT, USA)
Jack GF Hill	W4PPT	root@jackatak.raider.net	(Brentwood, TN, USA)
Ian Klufft	KD6EUI	iklufft@uts.amdahl.com	(Santa Clara, CA, USA)
Michael Larish	KD6CTZ	nomad@ecst.csuchico.edu	(Chico, CA, USA)
Paul Schleck	KD3FU	pschleck@unomaha.edu	(Omaha, NE, USA)
Chris Swartout	N6WCP	cas30@uts.amdahl.com	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Steve Watt	KD6GGD	steve@wattres.sj.ca.us	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Rosalie White	WA1STO	rwhite@arrl.org	(Newington, CT, USA)

Derek Wills AA5BT oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu (Austin, TX, USA)

* Acknowledgements

All questions listed as modified "pre-4/92" are entirely Diana Carlson KC1SP's work or her editing of a contributor's work. Diana established this FAQ and credit is due to her for founding this project.

Thanks to Devon Bowen KA2NRC for accepting this FAQ in e-mail every month to keep the FTP archive at ftp.cs.buffalo.edu up-to-date.

* Notes on "Netiquette"

The rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list have a large daily volume of traffic. They can operate more efficiently if the following netiquette guidelines are followed. Please take them seriously.

- * If you are new to UseNet, the introductory articles in news.announce.newusers are required reading. Go to that newsgroup now. Definitely, read the instructions there before posting anything. Other rec.radio.amateur.* readers will appreciate it!
- * Pick the right newsgroup. Use only the most specific newsgroup for your subject. For example, a question about a homebrew antenna only needs to be posted to rec.radio.amateur.antenna. Also, don't post to rec.radio.amateur.misc when the subject can go in another rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroup. So, when there is a more specific newsgroup, that's the one you want.
- * When posting a followup article, ALWAYS try to minimize the number of lines of quoted material from the original article.
- * As a general rule when you try to determine whether to reply to someone by e-mail or with a followup article, remember to "praise in public, criticize in private." It's OK to disagree technically but be careful not to attack the person with whom you disagree. Also, be careful with your use of the word "you" when posting a follow-up article. Many unnecessary flame wars have started that way.
- * Use a descriptive subject. For example, a message subject of "Ham Radio" tells the reader NOTHING about the contents of your article since the whole newsgroup is about Ham Radio. Other examples of subjects which are so broad that they become useless could include, "Help," "A Question," "Antennas," or "Frequencies." Maybe "Books on Antennas?" or "Where can I find Repeater Frequencies?" would be better, for example. Remember, in a busy newsgroup a lot of users decide which articles to read from the subject line alone. If you post, don't deprive yourself of an audience!
- * Before answering a question, check if the FAQ adequately answers it or if someone else already answered it. If you have more to add, make sure to reference either the FAQ or the related articles.

- * If a user posts a question which is directly answered by the FAQ, there is no need to post an answer - the information is already available on the newsgroup. Instead, just send an e-mail message which politely explains where to find the FAQ. They will probably appreciate it if you include the answer to their question. (Don't send a "nastygram" - that would just discourage future participation.)
- * Pay attention to the size of your audience - use the "Distribution:" header. If you leave it blank, your message will go to every civilized country in the world and occupy disk space in all news systems in all those places. If that's what you intend, that's fine but make sure your article is relevant outside your country. (In particular, Hams should already know there is more to the world than just their own country.)
- * If you have an item for sale, please limit the distribution area so that, for example, an article about a radio for sale in New Jersey won't get to California or Europe. If you wish, you may cross-post your for-sale article to rec.radio.swap.
- * Software sources should be posted to either alt.sources, comp.sources.misc, or comp.sources.* for a specific machine type. Software binaries should be posted to the appropriate subgroup of comp.binaries.

** What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio is a non-commercial radio communication service whose primary aims are public service, technical training and experimentation, and communication between private persons. Amateur Radio operators are commonly called hams. Hams often communicate with each other recreationally but also provide communications for others at public events or in times of emergency or disaster.

** Who can become a ham?

The answer to this question differs in every country.

The answer for the USA is listed below. If your country has a newsgroup specifically for it (i.e. UK, Australia, Germany) the most accurate answers can be found there. See Part 2 for the list of region-specific newsgroups.

If that doesn't help, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) may be able to help because they communicate with similar organizations in other countries, probably including yours. They can be reached by electronic mail or surface mail (see Part 2.)

In the USA, anyone who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an Amateur Radio operator. There are tests that you must pass to get a license, however the tests are not

insurmountable. On that general level, the requirements are probably similar in almost every country.

For more information on becoming a Ham in the USA, the ARRL has a toll-free number where you can request information: 1-800-32-NEW-HAM (don't worry about the number being one digit too long - the phone system ignores it.) Other information can also be obtained from the ARRL e-mail information server in the file called PROSPECT. Details on the server are in Part 2.

- ** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio?
Your local Radio Shack sells some ham radios and Amateur Radio license books. Books can also be obtained through the mail from ham radio organizations, such as ARRL in Newington, CT (203-666-1541) and W5YI in Dallas, TX (1-800-669-9594). There may be one or two ham radio stores in the local area (ie, within 50 miles). Try looking in the Yellow Pages under Radio Communications.

For the Novice license, get a Novice License manual, plus 5-word-per-minute Morse code tapes, costing around \$25. For the Technician license, get a combined Novice and Technician License manual, and an FCC Rules manual, costing around \$32. The FCC Rules manual is a good idea for Novice also, but not necessary, since the Novice License manual contains all the FCC Rules that are required for the Novice License.

The ARRL Education Activities Department has several programs to help amateurs (or prospective amateurs) to get started. Ask for a "New prospect package" available free of charge, from ARRL HQ, Educational Activities Department, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Information on Ham Radio can also be obtained with your computer. Part 2 of this FAQ contains a significant amount of material on that subject.

- ** How much does it cost?
To take the tests for any class of amateur radio license, there is a small charge (around \$5-\$6 currently) to cover copying costs and running the testing sessions. (Due to changes in 1993, Novice tests are under same procedures as the others.) The cost of a radio is really dependent on what you want to do. You can make your own radio and antenna for under \$150. You can buy a used single-band radio for \$150-\$300. Or you can buy a new multi-band multi-mode radio with all the doodads for \$300-\$3000. I'd suggest you learn more about ham radio, talk to local hams, find out what you want to do with ham radio first.

- ** Where can I take the tests?

The Novice tests Used to be given by any two qualified hams of General class license or above. Now all the license tests are given by three qualified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who volunteer their time.

To locate an ARRL testing session in your area, you can contact ARRL at 203-666-1541 x282.

See also the section "Where can I find VE sessions in my local area?" in Part 2 because more information is available via UseNet.

**** What are the tests like?**

First off, come prepared to VE sessions. Bring: TWO forms of ID, one of which has a picture on it; a calculator (if necessary); a pen and two pencils; the applicable examination fee (around \$5-\$6 for 1993); the original AND a copy of your current Amateur Radio license (if you have one); the original AND a copy of any CSCEs for tests you've already passed (if you have any).

Each of the written tests (Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra) are generally a multiple choice test of approximately one-tenth of the question pool. For example, if the question pool is approximately 300 questions, then the test will be a 30-question test. You need to get 75% correct to pass. Note that they truncate to determine the correct number of questions. That means for a 30 question test, you need to get 22 right, which is actually only 73.3%.

Once you've paid the small fee for Technician-Extra tests, it costs no extra to take another test, so I'd suggest you keep taking the next more advanced test until you fail. If you pass the written but not the Morse code (or vice versa) for a specific class license, you have up to one year to take the other test before you would have to retake the written test again. Note that some VEs will not allow you to take the written test unless you've first taken the Morse code test.

The Morse code test is a receiving test only. The test run 5 to 7 minutes. After the test, you are given a 10-question multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank test. Passing grade is 7 or more. If you fail the 10-question test, the examiner team will examine your copy sheet to see if you have 1 minute of solid copy with no errors. For 5 wpm, that's 25 characters, for 13 wpm, that's 65 characters, for 20 wpm, that's 100 characters. If they can find 1 minute solid copy, you've still passed.

Hints on Morse code tests: Generally, it will be a standard QSO (conversation), and it MUST contain at least one of each of the following:

26 letters A-Z, 10 numbers 0-9, comma (,), period (.), slant or

slash (/), question mark (?), double dash prosign (BT), end of message prosign (AR), end of contact prosign (SK). The letters count as one character, all others count as two characters. There are a couple other prosigns which are worth knowing, but will not be on the test, like "I'm done talking, next" is K, "I'm done talking, back to you" is KN, "Please wait" is AS.

**** What can I do with a ham radio license?**

There are so many things, it's a difficult question to answer, but here's some ideas:

- * Talk to people in foreign countries.
- * Talk to people (both local and far away) on your drive to work.
- * Help in emergencies by providing communications.
- * Provide communications in parades or walkathons.
- * Help other people become hams.
- * Hook your computer to your radio and communicate by computers.
- * Collect QSL cards (cards from other hams) from all over the United States and foreign countries and receive awards.
- * Participate in contests or Field Day events.
- * Provide radio services to your local Civil Defense organization thru ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service).
- * Aid members of the US military by joining MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System).
- * Participate in transmitter hunt games and maybe build your own direction-finding equipment.
- * Have someone to talk to on those sleepless nights at home.
- * Receive weather pictures via satellites.
- * Build radios, antennas, learn some electronics and radio theory.
- * Talk to astronauts in space, or use the moon to bounce signals back to people on the Earth.
- * Experiment with Amateur TV (ATV), Slow-Scan TV (SSTV), or send still-frame pictures by facsimile.
- * Experiment with amateur satellite communications.

**** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license?**

The most important thing you can't do is transact business of any kind over ham radio. Interference to other hams or services, as well as obscene, profane or indecent language is not tolerated and is illegal. Music and broadcasting are not allowed on ham radio. Some personal conversations may not be appropriate to Amateur Radio. Do you really want the whole world to hear about Aunt Mabel's hemorrhoids?

**** I'm interested, who will help me?**

There are hams who are willing to become "Elmers" (mentors, helpers) in your local area. Look around and ask local hams. Search out local radio clubs. As well, some people have volunteered to be an Elmer

over the Usenet. A list of UseNet Elmers and their e-mail addresses is posted to the newsgroup monthly. If anyone wants to be an Elmer, send e-mail to

elmers-request@unomaha.edu

There is also a lot to be said for exploring on your own. Take a look around the FTP archives and e-mail servers listed in Part 2. There's so much out there on UseNet, you'll find plenty of things you're interested in.

** Should I build my own equipment or antenna?

[see also rec.radio.amateur.homebrew and rec.radio.amateur.antenna]
"Homebrewing" is a fun and educational part of ham radio. It is a thrill to build your own transmitter and put it on the air. However, building your own receiver can be quite complicated; if you don't have electronics experience, you may want to buy a receiver instead. Most homebrew transmitters are QRP (transmit very low power). That's fine for an experienced ham with a very good antenna, but a Novice ham will just get frustrated. Your first rig, therefore should NOT be a homebrew.

Antennas can be much simpler projects than the transceiver, though some types are also quite involved. Most hams build their own antennas for base station use and buy antennas for mobile (car) use. Most beginner ham books describe how to build different types of antennas. Order of difficulty, from easiest to more difficult, for some common antennas are: wire dipole, Zepp, Yagi, Quad, and Log-Periodic. Books from many sources, including ARRL and several Hams, discuss antennas in depth.

When building or even understanding antennas, it is good to know the relationship between the antenna element length and the frequency or wavelength it is designed for. An antenna performs best at multiples of 1/4 of that wavelength, though 5/8 wave also has beneficial qualities. The wavelength is related to the frequency with the following formula:

wavelength (in meters) = 300 / frequency (in megahertz)

You do not need a huge antenna or tower like ones you may see around your neighborhood. Large beam antennas and 40-foot towers are very expensive. As a beginner, a simple dipole antenna is perfectly adequate. As you gain experience (and money :-), you may want to invest in something bigger.

If you can afford new rigs and antennas, there are many mail order stores that advertise in ham radio magazines. If you want to buy a used rig, the best place is at a "hamfest" (ham flea market). You

should take along an experienced ham, since some of the used equipment may be inoperative, overpriced or poor quality. You can also answer ads in ham magazines or posted at ham radio stores, although often, by the time you call, the equipment has already been sold.

Date: Sat, 09 Oct 93 05:33:37 GMT
From: spool.mu.edu!agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!cis.ohio-state.edu!mstar!n8emr!bulletin@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: SB QST ARL ARLB101
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

=====
| Automatic relayed from packet radio via |
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-895-2553 |
=====

ZCZC AG43
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 101 ARLB101
>From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
October 6, 1993
Relayed by KB8NW/OBS & BARF-80 BBS
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB101
ARLB101 JOTA update

Calling all scouts. This year's Jamboree On The Air, JOTA, will begin at 0000 hours local time, Saturday, October 16, and end at 2400 local time, Sunday, October 17. World Scout Frequencies for phone are 3740, 3940, 7090, 14290, 18140, 21360, 24960 and 28990 kHz. For CW, check 3590, 7030, 14070, 18080, 21140, 24910 and 28190 kHz.

Hundreds of Scout Troops will be taking part in the event. Look for special Scout station call signs HB9S in Geneva, Switzerland at the World Scout Bureau, and K2BSA in Dallas, TX at the Boy Scouts of America National Office. To establish a contact, call CQ JAMBOREE or answer Scout stations.

NNNN

Date: 8 Oct 1993 12:48:11 -0500
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!emx.cc.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: Temporary IDs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM (Pete Rossi) asks:

>Has anyone ever heard of anyone having a problem [notification from the FCC]
>for not using their temporary upgrade suffix? A friend of mine upgraded to
>Advanced back in the spring and I remember hearing him a few times in the
>Advanced band in DX pileups, etc, and once in a while, in the "heat of battle"
>he forgot his /AA suffix. I am sure it happens but has the FCC ever caught
>anyone? Do they really care?

I would guess that the FCC does not care, and I suspect that this, and worse, happens a lot. There are plenty of Extra class ops who kept their Novice calls, and a no-code Tech could operate in the Extra portion of the phone bands for a long time without being challenged. I know of a novice (or Tech, I forget) who did the phone Sprint a while back, using an amp on 20/40-80m.

I am not condoning this, but one might say that it is preferable to have a novice operating properly on 14155 than it is to have an Extra class operator acting like a lid in the Novice bands. Not that either represents the Finest in Ham Radio[tm].

Of course, if you are really knuckle-headed, you do what I heard someone doing - you call CQ in the Extra band with a /AG call. Now *that* is dumb.

Derek "Up Lid" Wills (AA5BT, G3NMX)
Department of Astronomy, University of Texas,
Austin TX 78712. (512-471-1392)
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu

Date: Thu, 7 Oct 1993 15:24:44 GMT
From: paris.ics.uci.edu!csulb.edu!library.ucla.edu!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!
math.ohio-state.edu!cs.utexas.edu!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!hplextra!
hpfco@news.service.uci.edu
Subject: When is Dayton??
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> In rec.radio.amateur.misc, marchbg@feenix.metronet.com (Marc Grant) writes:
>
> Does anyone know the dates for Dayton in '94??

Yes, there is confusion over the dates, but I'm making my reservations for
April 29, 30, May 1, 1994.

The Details:

As we waited in Hara Arena on Sunday afternoon for the drawing of the 1993 grand prizes, the announcer mentioned that "at least we got next years's dates in the program correct 50% of the time!", and he explained:

The announcer said they printed it WRONG on page 90 in the HamVention '93 program because it says:

1994 Regional Lodging

April 22, 23, 24, 1994 <----- As I sat there, I followed the
announcer's suggestion and
CROSSED THESE DATES OUT!

But the announcer said they printed it CORRECTLY on page 11 in the HamVention '93 program because it says:

Future Hamvention Dates

April 29, 30, May 1, 1994

April 28, 29, 30, 1995

April 26, 27, 28, 1996

These dates are tentative and should be used only as
a guide for future planning.

(What else would you use these dates for??)

----> I encourage a Dayton ham to contact the DARA (Dayton Amateur Radio Association) and post a confirmation for us.

So I hope to see YOU at HamVention '94 on
April 29, 30, May 1, 1994.

=====

Hope this helps!

Ted Cline, NØRQV
ted_cline@hpsla.lvld.hp.com
Day: (303) 679-2352

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1199
